



News From

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MONROE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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COUNTY AND CITY TO PROMOTE WINTER WEATHER PREPAREDNESS

Monroe County Executive Jack Doyle and City of Rochester Mayor William A. Johnson, Jr. have issued a joint proclamation declaring December 1-7 to be Winter Weather Preparedness Week. Joining County and City officials in recognizing Winter Preparedness Week were Greece Town Supervisor John Auberger, the Greater Rochester Chapter of the American Red Cross, the Monroe County Office of Emergency Preparedness and the National Weather Service.

"Our primary concern is to keep the people of Monroe County safe in the event of a winter storm," said Doyle. "We especially need to remind our elderly population about how to react to winter weather alerts and how to be prepared to sufficiently cope with serious winter weather conditions."

The week long preparedness campaign will focus on community awareness of the risks involving the elderly throughout the winter season. This initiative includes educating seniors living throughout Monroe County about the importance of understanding preventative measures to better protect themselves during inclement weather conditions.

The winter season can be deadly to certain members of our community, especially those at higher risk than others, such as seniors. Severe winter weather can cause death and injury through heart attacks, strokes, traffic accidents, and exposure to frigid conditions. Severe winter weather has also been responsible for hundreds of thousands of dollars in property damage each year.

"The National Weather Service labels winter storms 'the deceptive killers' since about 70% of winter fatalities occur in automobile accidents caused by severe winter weather or through heart attacks while shoveling snow," according to Mary Louise "Muffy" Meisenzahl, administrator for Monroe County's Office of Emergency Preparedness. By helping our elderly population prepare and reminding them how to react intelligently to winter weather alerts, we can help them stay safe during these annual winter storms."

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“We all know too well that winter weather hazards can happen at any moment and the effects can be devastating. A sudden winter storm can impact a community for days, weeks, or even months. Heavy snowfall and blizzards can trap people in their homes and can trap motorists in their cars,” said Kyle Rodeman, Executive Director of the Greater Rochester Chapter of the American Red Cross. “Whatever the situation, the Red Cross believes there are steps everyone, young or old, can take to be prepared, steps that can help us during any emergency, especially a sudden storm.”

The Monroe County Office of Emergency Preparedness has produced an information packet concerning winter safety tips for seniors that can be viewed online at www.monroecounty.gov under the Department of Public Safety.

“It is important for everyone regardless of age to be prepared for extreme weather condition during the winter months,” noted Greece Town Supervisor John Auberger. “All of us should take the time to make sure our vehicles and homes, and those of loved ones, have the proper necessities should a weather emergency arise.”

Participants in the event included Stan Levine, National Weather Service (NWS) warning coordination meteorologist; Kyle Rodeman, executive director - Rochester Chapter/American Red Cross; Supervisor John T. Auberger, Town of Greece; Deputy Chief Ralph Privitere, Rochester Fire Department; and Muffy Meisenzahl, administrator of the Monroe County Office of Emergency Preparedness.

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